



The purpose of Bethany Baptist Church is to bring glory to God by making disciples who reflect the character and priorities of Jesus Christ.

SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

- 9:00 AM Sunday School
 - 10:30 AM Worship Service & Children’s Church during sermon
 - 6:30 PM Prayer Meeting
- Nursery is available in the supervised room downstairs or the unsupervised room in the back of the sanctuary with audio

SERMON

Scripture: 1 Cor 4:1–5

Speaker: Pastor Peter

Servants of Christ ...The Right Perspective on Leaders

OUR ELDER SHEPHERDING GROUP

- A-B → Lyndon Unger
- C-D → Tim Archibald
- E-H → David Street
- I-M → Pastor Peter Erratt

- N-R → Tom Smith
- S → Cory Leniuk
- T-Z → Dennis Burriss

According to the first letter of your last name, feel free to bring any questions or concerns to your assigned elder or email them at elders@bethanybaptist.ab.ca

GET TO KNOW US

- ✉ office@bethanybaptist.ab.ca
- 🌐 www.bethanybaptist.ab.ca
- ☎ 403-347-7900
- 📍 3901 44 St. Red Deer, AB T4N 1G7

Lead Pastor:
Peter Erratt
peter@bethanybaptist.ab.ca
Assistant Pastor:
Daniel Lara
daniel@bethanybaptist.ab.ca
Church Admin & Children’s Ministry Coord:
Lilian Lara
lilian@bethanybaptist.ab.ca

- Health Needs: Lorraine Hort, Gord Rue
- Email us your prayer requests or to join the Prayer Line!

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Prayer Line
We thank the Lord for the 50 faithful members who are dedicated to praying for one another. As a church, we take seriously the Lord’s command to pray for all the saints, and we are grateful for the privilege of lifting up our brothers and sisters in prayer. May Bethany become a church marked by prayer and love, caring for one another through faithful intercession. May the Lord use our prayer line to glorify His name and accomplish His purposes. May every prayer line member experience God more deeply through their time in prayer. May more members of our church family join this ministry, making intercession a significant and joyful part of their spiritual lives.

JOIN OUR LIFE GROUP

- EVERY SUNDAY AFTERNOON
 - Tim & Michelle Archibald
- EVERY OTHER SUNDAY
 - Martin & Lorna Scholz
 - Tom & Tina Smith
 - Peter & Nancy Erratt
- EVERY WEDNESDAY
 - Don & Jan Collier
 - David & Laurel Street
- EVERY THURSDAY
 - Mark & Shannia Guenther
- EVERY OTHER THURSDAY
 - Lyndon & Leah Unger

MONDAY FEBRUARY 23
7 pm SLB Meeting

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 24
6:30 pm Adventure Club
6:30 pm Youth Group

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 25
6:30 am Men’s Breakfast
9:30 am Seniors’ Ministry

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 26
7 pm Choir Practice

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 27
6: 30 pm Ladies’ Night

SUNDAY MARCH 1
10:30 am Communion
12 noon VBS Volunteer Meeting
4 pm Young Adults

SUNDAY MARCH 8
10:30 am Baby Dedication (Liam)

SATURDAY MARCH 14
7 pm SingPlus @ Bethany

THURSDAY MARCH 19
7 pm Membership Council Meeting

SUNDAY MARCH 22
12 noon Newcomers’ Lunch

“Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints.” - Eph. 6:18

January Financial Report

General Fund Donation	Monthly Budget	Received
	\$31,835	\$27,667

OFFERING

E-TRANSFER: treasurer@bethanybaptist.ab.ca

OR DROP OFF YOUR ENVELOPE AT THE OFFICE

Donation Policy

The spending of funds received by Bethany Baptist Church is confined to Church approved programs and projects. Each gift designated toward an approved program or project will be used as designated with the understanding that when any given need has been met, or the specified program or project cannot be reasonably carried out or has not been approved, designated gifts will be used where needed most. Where appropriate, an official receipt for tax purposes will be issued as soon as possible after the year end.

GOT QUESTIONS ARTICLE What is Christian leadership?

What is Christian leadership? What should a Christian leader be like? There is no finer example for Christian leadership than our Lord Jesus Christ. He declared, “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep” ([John 10:11](#)). It is within this verse that we see the perfect description of a Christian leader. He is one who acts as a shepherd to those “sheep” in his care.

When Jesus referred to us as “sheep,” He was not speaking in affectionate terms. In truth, sheep rank among the dumbest animals in creation. A stray sheep, still within earshot of the herd, becomes disoriented, confused, frightened, and incapable of finding its way back to the flock. Unable to ward off hungry predators, the stray is perhaps the most helpless of all creatures. Entire herds of sheep are known to have drowned during times of flash flooding even in sight of easily accessible higher ground. Like it or not, when Jesus called us His sheep, He was saying that without a shepherd, we are helpless.

The shepherd is one who has several roles in regard to his sheep. He leads, feeds, nurtures, comforts, corrects and protects. The shepherd of the Lord’s flock leads by modeling godliness and righteousness in his own life and encouraging others to follow his example. Of course, our ultimate example—and the One we should follow—is Christ Himself. The Apostle Paul understood this: “Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ” ([1 Corinthians 11:1](#)). The Christian leader is one who follows Christ and inspires others to follow Him as well.

The Christian leader is also a feeder and a nourisher of the sheep, and the ultimate “sheep food” is the Word of God. Just as the shepherd leads his flock to the most lush pasture so they will grow and flourish, so the Christian leader nourishes his flock with the only food which will produce strong, vibrant Christians. The Bible—not psychology or the world’s wisdom—is the only diet that can produce healthy Christians. “Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD” ([Deuteronomy 8:3](#)).

The Christian leader also comforts the sheep, binding up their wounds and applying the balm of compassion and love. As the great Shepherd of Israel, the Lord Himself promised to “bind up the injured and strengthen the weak” ([Ezekiel 34:16](#)). As Christians in the world today, we suffer many injuries to our spirits, and we need compassionate leaders who will bear our burdens with us, sympathize with our circumstances, exhibit patience toward us, encourage us in the Word, and bring our concerns before the Father’s throne.

Just as the shepherd used his crook to pull a wandering sheep back into the fold, so the Christian leader corrects and disciplines those in his care when they go astray. Without rancor or an overbearing spirit, but with a “spirit of gentleness” ([Galatians 6:1](#)), those in leadership must correct according to scriptural principles. Correction or discipline is never a pleasant experience for either party, but the Christian leader who fails in this area is not exhibiting love for those in his care. “The LORD disciplines those he loves” ([Proverbs 3:12](#)), and the Christian leader must follow His example.

GOT QUESTIONS ARTICLE What is Christian leadership?

The final role of the Christian leader is that of protector. The shepherd who was lax in this area soon found that he regularly lost sheep to the predators who prowled around—and sometimes among—his flock. The predators today are those who try to lure the sheep away with false doctrine, dismissing the Bible as quaint and old fashioned, insufficient, unclear, or unknowable. These lies are spread by those against whom Jesus warned us: “Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves” ([Matthew 7:15](#)). Our leaders must protect us from the false teachings of those who would lead us astray from the truth of the Scripture and the fact that Christ alone is the way of salvation: “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me” ([John 14:6](#)).

A final word on Christian leaders comes from the article “Wanted: A Few Good Shepherds (Must Know How to Wash Feet)” by John MacArthur:

“Under the plan God has ordained for the church, leadership is a position of humble, loving service. Church leadership is ministry, not management. Those whom God designates as leaders are called not to be governing monarchs, but humble slaves; not slick celebrities, but laboring servants. Those who would lead God’s people must above all exemplify sacrifice, devotion, submission, and lowliness. Jesus Himself gave us the pattern when He stooped to wash His disciples’ feet, a task that was customarily done by the lowest of slaves ([John 13](#)). If the Lord of the universe would do that, no church leader has a right to think of himself as a bigwig.”

MISSIONARY UPDATES

Rod & Donna Black

“It is a privilege to serve as a coach within Fellowship International for some wonderful colleagues. Lots and lots of video calls from my home in Edmonton to locations around the world where God is doing some pretty amazing work! Here are some of the stories that I have been hearing recently:

This couple heads up the Christian Ministries department in our hospital in Pakistan, and have been reaching out to the community around them, resulting in a group of new believers who are from a Hindu background. They have formed a new church, renting a space for their worship and training programs. A new church! Someday in Heaven you get to hear them sing in the Sansi language!

This group lives near Shikarpur and their main occupation was begging. Not many of them were educated, but they have been learning to read under the direction of our colleagues – reading means not only that they can hope for better employment but also that they can read their own Bibles. The believers are also learning how to pray, and to pray to one God and not several. And they are coming to faith as families! Men telling their wives, and both telling other relatives. Praise God for the work going on among the Sansi in Pakistan.

The staff of the Bible Correspondence School in Pakistan reach out to the 35 million Muslim Sindhis around them. They wrote about two young men, both serving as teachers in a government primary school and who have embarked on a profound spiritual journey. With hearts full of faith, they are currently enrolled in Bible courses and regularly attend Bible study classes. Because of their circumstances, they have to be very cautious. They often arrive in secret to ensure they are not noticed by others. Despite the need for secrecy, their characters shine brightly; they are kind-hearted individuals who have sincerely accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior. Their faith is a quiet flame, burning with devotion even in the midst of challenges.

Two of our Indonesian team (pictured here) have been sharing their stories of what God is doing in their area. Here is one of them: "After nearly a month of studying the stories of the prophets and Jesus, R took a step of faith to believe and be baptized. R has limited Indonesian language skills, so we expected the process to take longer. However, God worked differently—R has a good memory and a strong thirst for knowledge, which made her journey to know Jesus very quick."

They continue: "Mrs. Y and Mr. S are a couple from one of the villages we mentor. After nearly a year of sharing stories about the prophets and Jesus, Mrs. Y and one other family decided to believe and the family was baptized. Mrs. Y waited to be baptized together with her husband. We spent about a 6-7 month studying with Mr. S, but many challenges came up, and we almost gave up. However, the Holy Spirit led us to keep going. Finally, Mr. S took a step of faith, and both he and Mrs. Y were baptized. Even though they faced intimidation from neighbors and rejection from family, they stayed strong in their faith."

- We are praising God for: workers that God has sent into the harvest. Brothers and sisters who are willing to face persecution and hardship to see the Kingdom of God grow, and the name of Jesus glorified.
- for the support that has been raised to see these workers continue in their ministry
- We are praying for: more workers! The harvest is huge and waiting for more servants of Jesus to go!
- protection for the workers, courage, joy and wisdom as they look for opportunities to share to people they meet and and disciple those who believe.

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

1. How have you seen worldly or cultural values influence the way Christians evaluate church leaders, authors, and celebrity pastors?

2. Paul calls christian leaders “servants” and “stewards.” How does that reshape your expectations of church leadership? What changes when you see leaders not as celebrities to admire or critique, but as “under-rowers” accountable to Christ?

3. How should we define biblical faithfulness, and what does it practically look like in both leaders and every Christian?

4. How does remembering that God evaluates faithfulness, not visible results, bring both comfort and conviction? Are there areas where you feel pressure to produce outcomes you can’t control? How does this passage help you recalibrate?

5. Paul says human judgment is “a very small thing.” Whose approval are you most tempted to live for right now? How does fear of man subtly influence your decisions, tone, or ministry? What would it look like to live more consciously before the Lord?

6. Practically speaking, how can we help our leaders fear the Lord more than they fear people? What habits would create a culture where leaders are freed to serve faithfully?

7. Verse 5 reminds us that God will bring hidden motives to light. How should that truth shape the way you serve today? Does it humble you? Encourage you? Both? How does trusting God with the final verdict change the way you speak about others or evaluate their work?